





#### MC&FP FACT SHEET

# Facilitating Military Spouse Transition through Eligibility for Unemployment Compensation

## Background

Currently 45 states and the District of Columbia provide active duty military spouses eligibility to apply for unemployment compensation because of military relocation. The remaining five states continue to view a resignation due to military relocation as "voluntary," making the military spouse ineligible for unemployment compensation. Military Community and Family Policy's Defense State Liaison Office worked with state policymakers to pass legislation to resolve this issue.

# Highlights

- Military spouses move every two to four years, so some employers
  may be reluctant to hire spouses since doing so may impact the
  amount they have to pay in unemployment insurance premiums.
  To help alleviate this concern, DSLO has worked with state
  policymakers to stipulate that military spouse unemployment claims
  should not accrue to the employer's unemployment filing experience.
- Spouses seeking unemployment compensation need to apply with the appropriate agency in the state they are leaving. Applying after the move in the new state is also acceptable, since agencies are often used to working across jurisdictional lines.
- Eligibility does not guarantee receipt of compensation. Spouses must meet the general qualifications for compensation and complete the necessary application.
- Military families in states that do not allow eligibility may wish to contact state legislators in their area to express their views on this issue.









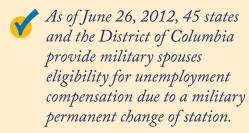


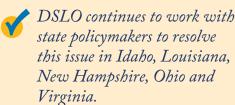


#### Data



In 2004, only 11 states provided military spouses eligibility.





### **Additional Information**

#### Presidential Study Directive 9, Strengthening Our Military Families

www.defense.gov/home/ features/2011/0111\_initiative/ strengthening\_our\_military\_ january\_2011.pdf

### **USA4MilitaryFamilies**

www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil